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I hereby certify that the below-identified Preliminary Amendment is being deposited as Express Mail on this date with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to Box NEW PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231-0001.

Date: October 9, 2000

By: Signature of Person Depositive as Express Mail

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

-- PATENT APPLICATION --

Applicant:

Bin Zhao

Docket No.:

97RSS433DIV

Serial No.:

To Be Assigned

Atty. Ref. No.:

60944.1317

Filed:

October 9, 2000

Group Art Unit:

To Be Assigned

TITLE:

METHOD OF FABRICATING AN

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

INTERCONNECT STRUCTURE EMPLOYING AIR GAPS BETWEEN

METAL LINES AND BETWEEN

METAL LAYERS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box NEW PATENT APPLICATION Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231-0001

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please consider the following amendment prior to examination of the above-identified application.

In the Specification

On page 2, please change the title of the application to:

METHOD OF FABRICATING AN INTERCONNECT STRUCTURE EMPLOYING AIR GAPS BETWEEN METAL LINES AND BETWEEN METAL LAYERS

On page 2, after the title of the application and before the heading "FIELD OF THE INVENTION", please insert the following paragraph: